

Issue NE-CW1604, released April 19, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending April 18, 2004, producers focused on field preparations with corn planting underway in most areas of the state, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Over the weekend, high winds combined with above normal temperatures dried soils and created dusty conditions. Subsoil moisture continued to rate very short to short in the western two-thirds of the state. Other producer activities included livestock care, spring fieldwork, and applying fertilizer.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from normals to 7 degrees above normals for the week. Limited precipitation occurred over most of state with amounts generally .25 inch or less. Sunday evening brought rainfall of .50 inch or more to portions of the northeast.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending April 18, 2004				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	17	22	7	14
Short	47	31	26	21
Adequate	36	46	66	58
Surplus	0	1	1	7
Subsoil				
Very Short	41	39	40	23
Short	34	35	44	33
Adequate	25	26	16	41
Surplus	0	0	0	3
Days Suitable	6.3	5.7	3.4	4.2

Field Crops Report: Wheat condition rated 11 percent very poor, 17 poor, 38 fair, 33 good, and 1 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 15 percent jointed, ahead of last year at 10 and average at 8.

Corn planting had made a start in most areas around the state with 7 percent seeded to date, ahead of last year and average at 3.

Oat planting progressed to 84 percent seeded to date, ahead of last year and average at 68. Twenty-nine percent of the acreage had emerged, ahead of last year at 23 but the same as average.

Sugar beet planting continued to make good progress with 57 percent completed to date. A year ago 20 percent had been planted.

Alfalfa conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 9 poor, 44 fair, 39 good, and 5 excellent.

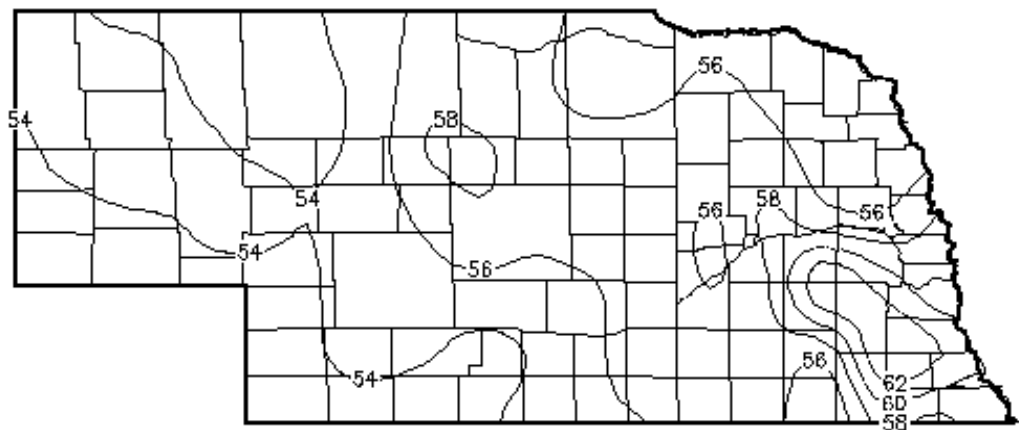
Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending April 18, 2004				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Corn Planted	7	0	3	3
Oats Planted	84	63	68	68
Oats Emerged	29	10	23	29
Wheat Jointed	15	8	10	8

Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending April 18, 2004					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	3	9	44	39	5
Wheat	11	17	38	33	1

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition rated 13 percent very poor, 26 poor, 37 fair, 22 good, and 2 excellent. This condition was better than a year ago but below average. Cattle and calf condition rated 10 percent fair, 71 good, and 19 excellent. Spring calving was 90 percent complete with calf losses rated at average to below average.

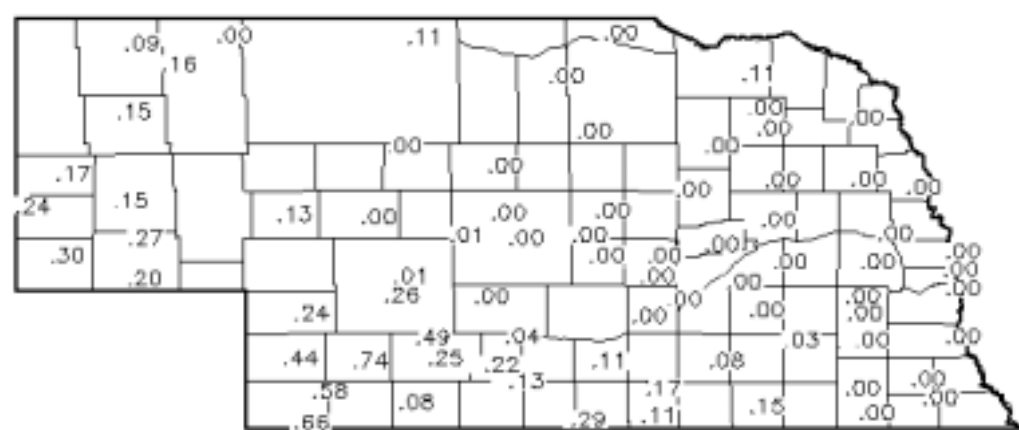
This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil
April 12 - April 18, 2004



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 18, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 18, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.22	.01	.01	.00	.00	.37	.25	.02
Total since April 1	.65	.24	.08	.33	.10	.69	.58	.22
Normal since April 1	1.01	1.21	1.46	1.39	1.58	1.08	1.19	1.60
Total as % of normal	66%	20%	5%	23%	6%	65%	52%	13%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 18, 2004

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	77	9	49	2
	Scottsbluff	77	18	51	5
	Sidney	76	17	50	3
NC	Ainsworth	79	17	53	5
	Arthur	78	15	52	4
	O'Neill	84	19	54	4
NE	Concord	87	22	56	5
	Elgin	89	25	56	5
	West Point	89	23	57	5
C	Grand Island	90	21	56	5
	Lexington	87	22	57	6
	Ord	89	19	55	4
EC	Lincoln	90	30	60	7
	Central City	88	22	57	6
	Mead	90	24	57	4
SW	Champion	80	11	50	0
	North Platte	83	13	53	3
	Curtis	84	19	54	4
SC	Arapahoe	77	17	51	2
	Minden	91	22	57	6
	Red Cloud	88	28	57	5
SE	Beatrice	89	27	58	5
	Clay Center	89	26	56	5
	Nemaha	88	34	61	7

Source: High Plains Climate Center.